

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-18 and amended claims 1 and 9 are in this application.

Claims 1 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Inoue, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,407).

“...wherein the input data to be processed is set as the given input data **sequentially**.” (Underlining and bold added for emphasis.)

In explaining the above 102 rejection, the Examiner appears to associate cluster centers of each cluster with the given input data. Inoue discloses that each cluster center is calculated **repeatedly** (see col. 46, line 61 to col. 47, line 58 and Fig. 37). On the other hand, the given input data of claim 1 is set **sequentially**. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be distinguishable from Inoue as applied by the Examiner (hereinafter “Inoue”).

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to claim 1, amended independent claim 19 is believed to be distinguishable from Inoue.

Claims 2-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of Li, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,602,934).

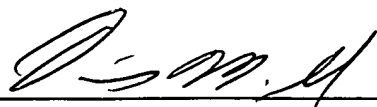
Claims 2-18 depend from claim 1, and, due to such dependency, are believed to be distinguishable from Inoue for at least the reasons previously described. The Examiner does not appear to have relied on Li to overcome the above-described features of Inoue. Accordingly, claims 2-18 are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Inoue and Li.

In the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where, in the reference or references, there is the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-19 and the allowance of this application with claims 1-19 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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